

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming a molded plywood door skin, comprising the steps of:

~~providing a plywood board having at least one ply of solid wood;~~

conditioning the a plywood board comprising at least one ply of solid wood with water;

disposing the conditioned plywood board in a contoured mold press having a contoured mold cavity; and

deforming the plywood board in the mold press using sufficient heat and pressure to form a molded plywood door skin having a substantially uniform thickness and a substantially uniform density and contoured portions corresponding to said mold cavity.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, including the step of further comprising closing the mold press at a predetermined closure rate.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the predetermined closure rate is between about 3 mm per minute and about 7 mm per minute.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises step includes exposing the plywood board to steam in an atmospheric chamber.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises step includes exposing the plywood board to steam in a pressurized, sealed cavity.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the plywood board is exposed to steam in the pressurized, sealed cavity for at least about 30 minutes during said conditioning step.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises step includes soaking the plywood board in a water bath.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board is sealed comprises soaking the plywood board in the water bath for at least about 4 hours during said conditioning step.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises step includes exposing the plywood board to a surface spray.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said conditioning step further comprises using treating the plywood board with surfactants to achieve a desired moisture pick-up.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said conditioning step of the plywood board increases moisture content of the plywood board to between about 10% and about 40%.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plywood board is a luan plywood board.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plywood board includes an exterior ply of solid natural wood, and at least one interior core layer.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the interior core layer is selected from the group consisting of medium density fiberboard, chipboard, oriented strandboard, softboard, hardboard, and particleboard.

15-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the plywood board is free of a non-solid mat of wood material.

28. (New) A method of forming a molded plywood door skin, comprising the steps of:

conditioning with water a plywood board comprising a plurality of solid wood plies bonded together;

disposing the conditioned plywood board in a mold press having a contoured mold cavity; and

deforming the plywood board in the mold press using sufficient heat and pressure to form a molded plywood door skin having a substantially uniform thickness and a substantially uniform density and contoured portions corresponding to said mold cavity.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises exposing the plywood board to steam in a pressurized, sealed cavity for at least about 30 minutes.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises soaking the plywood board in a water bath for at least about 4 hours.

31. (New) A method of forming a molded plywood door skin, comprising the steps of:

conditioning with water a plywood board comprising a solid wood ply bonded to a lumber core;

disposing the conditioned plywood board in a mold press having a contoured mold cavity; and

deforming the plywood board in the mold press using sufficient heat and pressure to form a molded plywood door skin having a substantially uniform thickness and a substantially uniform density and contoured portions corresponding to said mold cavity.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises exposing the plywood board to steam in a pressurized, sealed cavity for at least about 30 minutes.

33. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said conditioning of the plywood board comprises soaking the plywood board in a water bath for at least about 4 hours.